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FROM: MOSCOW

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1685, FEBRUARY 25, 1 PM.

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NOFORN.

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HAVING LEARNED FROM PAST EXPERIENCE THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO BE CAREFUL WHAT WAS SAID TO KROLL I THOUGHT I HAD BEEN MOST CIRCUMSPECT IN MY REMARKS TO HIM. CONVERSATION WHICH WAS AT HIS INITIATIVE WAS LONG ONE BUT ONLY POINTS CONTAINED IN MY 1649 WHICH I RECALL MAKING WERE 1) I DOUBTED SOVS WOULD AGREE DISCUSS GERMAN SETTLEMENT AT FOREIGN MINISTERS' LEVEL 2) I DID NOT THINK SOVS WOULD ACCEPT A SETTLEMENT WHICH BEGAN WITH FREE ELECTIONS BECAUSE OF THEIR FEAR OF REPERCUSSIONS IN SATELLITE EMPIRE AND 3) THERE WAS GREAT DANGER IN PRESENT SITUATION UNLESS WE COULD MAKE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR TO SOVS IN ADVANCE WHAT WE WERE PREPARED TO DO IF THEY INTERFERED WITH OUR ACCESS TO BERLIN. I SUSPECT KROLL HAS TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF OUR CONVERSATION TO PUT HIS OWN THOUGHTS IN MY MOUTH SINCE HE HAS SEVERAL TIMES EXPRESSED VIEWS WHICH HE SAID HE DID NOT DARE REPORT TO BONN.

FROM HIS CONVERSATION WITH ME KROLL IS CONVINCED SOVS ARE PREPARED TO FIGHT IF WE RESIST EAST GERMAN CONTROL OVER OUR ACCESS TO BERLIN, UNLESS WE MAKE IT CLEAR IN ADVANCE WE ARE PREPARED TO GO TO WAR OVER THIS ISSUE, AND HE THEREFORE FEELS STRONGLY THAT IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO HAVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOVIETS. HE THINKS IMPORTANT THING

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IMPORTANT THING IS TO REACH SETTLEMENT WHICH WOULD SEPARATE EAST GERMANY FROM SATELLITE CAMP AND THAT AN INTERIM SOLUTION MIGHT BE FOUND WHICH WOULD ENABLE WEST GERMANS GRADUALLY TO ATTRACT EAST GERMANS. IT WAS THIS LINE OF THINKING WHICH HE SAID HE DID NOT FEEL HE COULD REPORT TO HIS GOVERNMENT. WHEN I POINTED OUT THAT COMMUNISTS WITH THEIR TECHNIQUES OF THREATS AND SUBVERSION MIGHT OBTAIN OPPOSITE RESULT KROLL REPLIED THAT GERMANS KNEW HOW TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM AND HE HAD NO FEARS ON THIS SCORE.

KROLL ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT SOVS WOULD CONCLUDE PEACE TREATY WITH EAST GERMANY AND THAT ONCE THIS WERE DONE POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATION ON QUESTION OF REUNIFICATION WOULD BECOME REMOTE.

IN THE FEW REMARKS I MADE, I MADE CLEAR I WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY BUT WILL BE EVEN MORE CAREFUL IN FUTURE CONVERSATIONS.

THOMPSON

DHP

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